

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As suggested by the Examiner, the specification has been amended to add section headings where appropriate.

Further, as requested by the Examiner, the specification was amended to replace the word "silicone" with --silicon--.

Claims 5-14 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) for improper multiple dependency and were not further treated on the merits. The claims have been amended to obviate this objection. Applicant therefore requests consideration of claims 5-14 as amended.

Further, as requested by the Examiner, Figure 1 has been amended to include the label --PRIOR ART--.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Furukawa '891. Applicant respectfully submits that, for the following reasons, the Furukawa '891 patent is not available as prior art in the present application.

The present application claims priority of UK 0022329.7 filed September 12, 2000 under 35 U.S.C. 119. The claim for priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document were acknowledged by the Examiner (see Paper No. 5). The earliest the Furukawa '891 patent is effective as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 102 is its October 17, 2000 filing date. The effective date of the Furukawa '891 patent is *later* than the foreign priority filing date of the present application. Further, Applicant hereby submits that the priority document satisfies the enablement and description requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph with regard to each of the claims (see § MPEP 706.02(b)). For all of the above reasons, the rejection of claims 1-4 is moot.

Appl. No: 09/954,691
Arndt. Dated: December 9, 2003
Reply to Office Action of: July 11, 2003

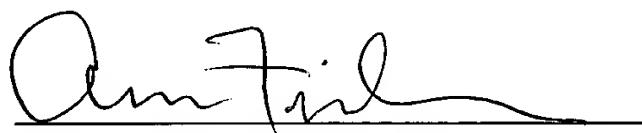
In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33908.

Respectfully submitted,

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